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Huntsman Students Collect Entrepreneurship Prizes

By Klydi Heywood

The final stage in the [Utah Entrepreneur Series](#), the [Utah Entrepreneur Challenge](#), is one of the largest business plan competitions in the nation. This April five out of nine challenge prizes were awarded to two Huntsman students' businesses.



NanoKEYS, which provides the world's smallest set of keys, allowing the ability to digitally scan keys to be fitted in a small, sleek device about the size of a ChapStick, won Best Tabling Award (\$500), People's Choice Award (\$1,000), Being in Top 10 Award (\$1,000) and Best Presentation (\$5,000). Another Huntsman student business, Aero Gym Fitness System, a patented exercise equipment that offers more than 300 exercises in a small bag, won the Best Boot Strap Award (\$1,500).

"The UEC gave us the opportunity to network with amazing business professionals and challenged us to bring our business concepts to the next level," said Bryce Packer, founder of nanoKEYS. "We are grateful that we were so favored in the competition and to Huntsman School preparing us to be successful. I think Aggies winning the majority of prizes speaks loudly for the quality of the Huntsman School's business program."

This year there were 126 plans submitted from 11 Utah universities and colleges. Thirty teams moved on after the first round of judging and the top ten teams were selected to move on to the final presentations.

"Our students have worked hard and put in a lot of time with mentors from our Founders Board to get where they are," said Mike Glauser, executive director of entrepreneurial programs. "This is a great accomplishment, and we continue to move forward with momentum because of their success."

One of those mentors for the USU program, Vernon Rice, was a judge in the USU Opportunity Quest competition which led to the selection of which businesses would compete in the UEC.

"I found the USU contestants to be well prepared, enthusiastic, and committed to their innovations. I wasn't surprised they were so successful in the UEC Competition and won the majority of the awards," Mr. Rice said. It was personally very satisfying to be involved with these young entrepreneurs and gives me great optimism for the future of business in our state to see students make such great effort and investment for success. I wish them the very best."